



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.6920 | FAX (517) 373.2751
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 24, 2003

Contact: Darin Ackerman
(517) 373-6920

Legislation Saving School Districts Funds Passes Education Committee

(LANSING) – Measures designed to save school districts funds in their operating budgets passed the Senate Education Committee today, state Senator Wayne Kuipers announced.

“I am pleased that we are able to keep the ball rolling in our effort to cut operating costs for K-12 education,” Kuipers, chair of the committee, said. “In these difficult economic times it is necessary that the Legislature take appropriate steps in ensuring that all Michigan children receive the best education possible. This legislation allows for that continued education at the same time giving school districts the flexibility they need for their budgets.”

Spanning a three week time period, the Senate Education Committee received testimony from local school administrators who came forth to offer suggestions on how school districts across the state can save funds in their operating budgets. Based on those suggestions a six-bill legislative package was created; the following three having passed the committee today:

- **Senate Bill 364: Eliminating state law that mandates districts and public school academies to conduct a minimum of 180-days of instruction.** The legislation would allow the district to choose whether to shorten their school week or their school year, although the district must still meet the minimum number (1,098) of hours in the school year. Sponsor: Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell.
- **Senate Bill 365: Streamlining the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).** Currently, data submitted by schools is submitted to CEPI and numerous other state agencies. This bill requires that all data submissions will be made directly to CEPI. Sponsor: Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Novi.
- **Senate Bill 366: Eliminating Professional Development Requirements.** Currently, new teachers must have 15 days of professional development within the first three years along with five days of professional development per year. School districts pay for these services in addition to paying for substitute teachers. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, schools could save between \$35 and \$40 million alone by not having to pay substitute teacher costs. Sponsor: Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt.

Senate Bills 364-366 await consideration from the full Senate.